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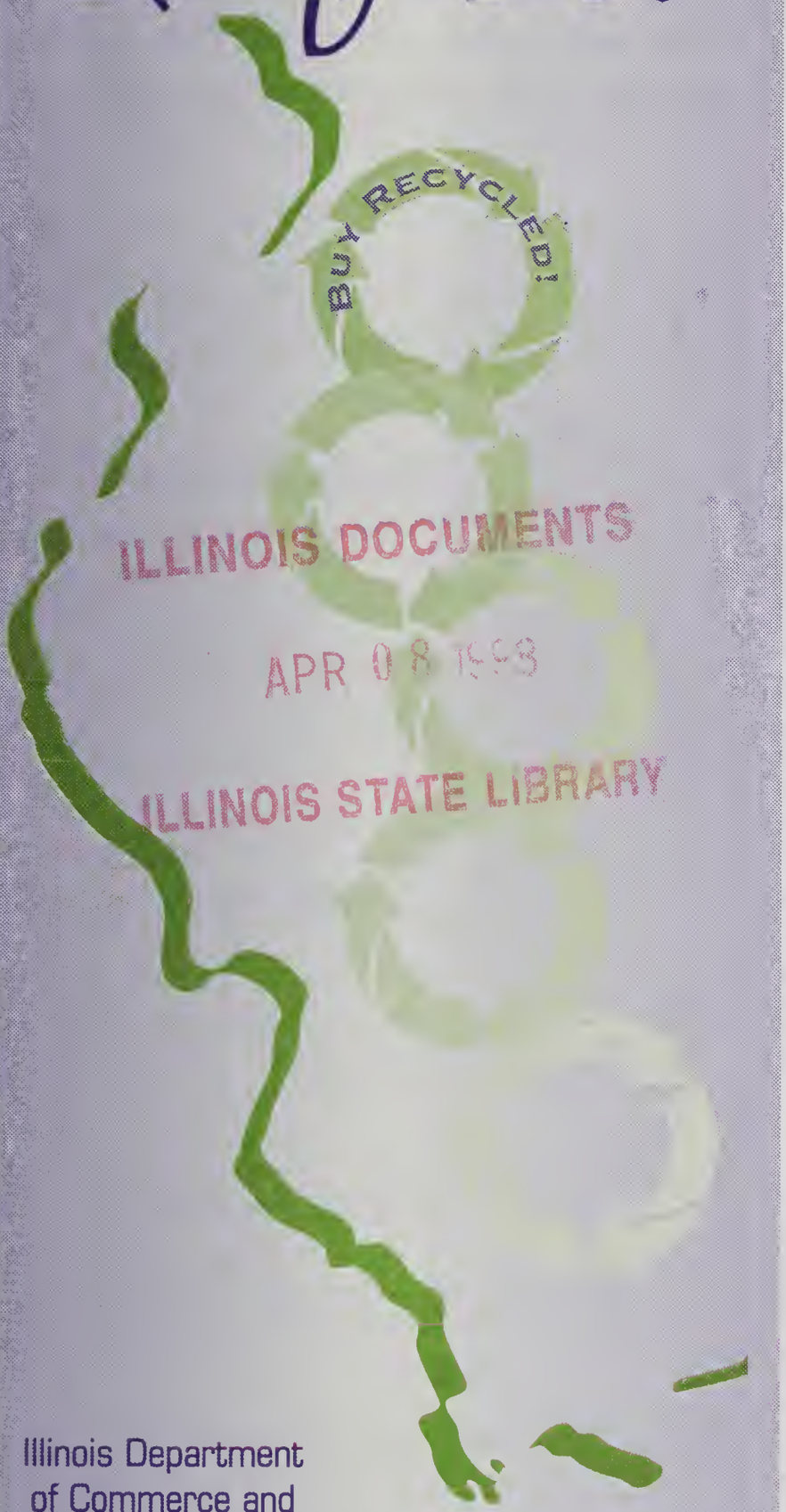
Why Buy Recycled?



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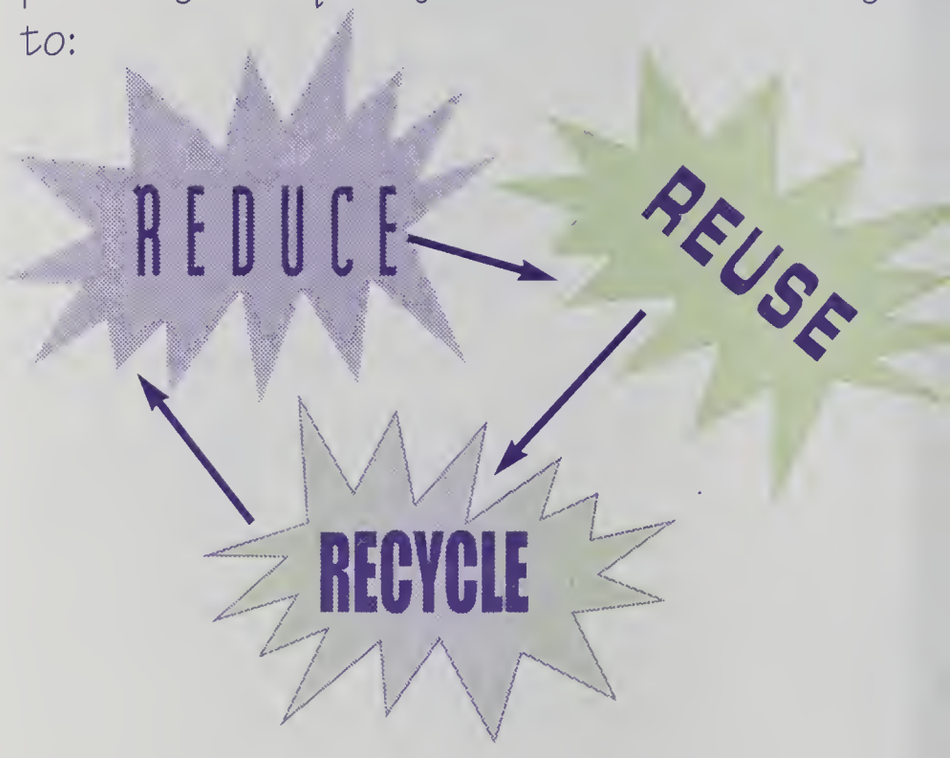
Illinois Department
of Commerce and
Community Affairs

Bureau of Energy
and Recycling

Are You Closing the Loop

When we realized the old system of using and discarding our trash in landfills was wasting money and natural resources, and polluting the quality of our future, we began to:



Every day millions of Illinois citizens recycle glass, aluminum, steel, and plastic through curbside collection programs, drop-off bins, buy-back centers, and collection bins in parks, stadiums, schools, and thousands of other places.

Illinois residents are also recycling automobile and truck tires, tons of newspaper, cardboard, and office paper, millions of gallons of used motor oil, yard waste, metals, wood, and other materials.

Is Recycling Enough?

We must now take the next step!

Recycling materials instead of landfilling them is only half the job. To be true recyclers, we must CLOSE THE LOOP!

By helping create a market for recycled products, we ensure that recycling works!

Hint: Whenever possible, look for products with recycled content which are made in Illinois. Help CLOSE THE LOOP and create new jobs in your community.

WHY BUY RECYCLED?

Recycled products are good for our communities and Illinois' economy. Here are SEVEN good reasons to BUY RECYCLED.

1. Buying Recycled benefits the ECONOMY by CREATING JOBS!

2. Buying Recycled REDUCES WASTE AND POLLUTION

3. Buying Recycled SAVES LANDFILL SPACE.

4. Buying Recycled CONSERVES RESOURCES.

5. Buying Recycled MINIMIZES ENERGY USAGE.

6. Buying Recycled SUSTAINS DEMAND FOR THE RECYCLABLES YOU GENERATE!

7. Buying Recycled creates a CONSERVATION ETHIC which will ensure a POSITIVE FUTURE for our FAMILIES and Communities.

Things You Already Buy That May be Made From Recycled Materials

Aluminum cans, car bumpers, paper napkins, glass bottles, mailing tubes, motor oil, newspapers, office paper, plastic soda bottles, trash bags, pencils, tires, carpeting, doormats, wallpaper, wrapping paper, sticky notes, toner cartridges, computer disks, magnets, scissors, packaging peanuts, sleeping bags, fences, bicycles, boots, basketball backboards, padded envelopes and many, many more items that you use everyday.

RECYCLED vs. RECYCLABLE: *A recycled product is one made from recycled material.*

A recyclable product is one that can be collected, separated, or otherwise recovered and recycled after it has reached the end of its useful life.

DID YOU KNOW?

- According to the Aluminum Corporation of America, at least 30,000 people are employed in US aluminum recycling, twice as many as there are in aluminum manufacturing.
- The Institute for Local Self-Reliance estimates that nine jobs are created for every 15,000 tons of solid waste recycled and seven jobs for the same amount of yard trimmings composted.
- Reuse of old newspaper, metals, glass, and even some plastics almost always lowers raw materials costs in manufacturing.

How to Find Recycled

Packaging holds the clue for CLOSING THE LOOP. More and more products are made from recyclables and packaged in recycled materials. READ LABELS!

Usually a package label will identify whether the product or packaging material is made of recycled materials. Check the labels on these commonly used products BEFORE you buy.

- Writing paper, note pads, greeting cards, and other stationery supplies
- Household paper products such as paper towels, toilet and facial tissues
- Office equipment and supplies
- Fleece and fiberfill clothing

Look for the package with the highest percentage of post-consumer recycled content you can find.

Pre-consumer vs. Post Consumer

Pre-consumer (also known as post-industrial) means materials diverted from the waste stream that are generated during manufacturing. These materials have not yet reached consumers or businesses and are usually pure form. *EXAMPLES: Trimmings, damaged products, production overruns*

Post-Consumer materials include items used by consumers or businesses which would otherwise be sent to landfills. After recycling, these materials can be used to manufacture value-added new products. *EXAMPLES: Newspaper, cardboard boxes, used glass or aluminum beverage containers, steel (tin) cans, and plastic bottles*

Look for these products made from RECYCLED MATERIALS

Backpack-made from recycled tires
Ozone Store 708-474-4077

DURAWOOD lumber, deck material, fencing, lawn/patio furniture, made from recycled plastics and wood shavings
Eaglebrook Products • 312-638-1600

Blue Jean Pencil, made from recycled blue denim
Money Pencil, made from recycled old money
WalMart Stores

Ceramic Tile, made from recycled car windshields
American International • 847-364-5400
Brann Clay Products • 708-422-1000

Computer Disk Holder and Other Office Supplies, made from recycled paper
The Container Store • 630-573-9100

Animal Bedding made from 100% recycled newspaper, 100% Post-consumer material
Eagle Enterprises Recycling, Inc. • 309-932-2936

Crazy Crayons, made from recycled crayons
Whole Foods Store • 630-588-1500

Lunch Box, made from #2, recycled plastic
Recognition Express • 630-668-6540

Antifreeze, made from 80-99% recycled antifreeze
PJ's Hi-Tech Services • 618-775-8382

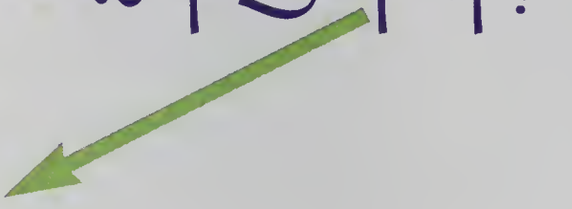
CD Trays, Jewel Boxes, made from 10-90% recycled styrene
Eldred Plastics • 217-983-2733

Drywall for construction, made from 100% recycled materials
Celotex Construction • 217-224-3800

The hearing impaired may access all numbers through the State Relay Center 800/526-0844.

Want more information on recycling and recycling grant programs?

Here's how to get it!



CALL TOLL FREE: 1-800-252-8955 (in IL)
TDD TOLL FREE: 1-800-785-6055

or 217/785-2800; TDD 217/785-0211
FAX: 217/785-2618

web site: http://www.commerce.state.il.us/

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